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Front Cover: *The Patron of the Beekeeper of the Year Awards, Sir Edmund Hillary with the winner Bruce and Jenny McCusker and Steve Olds of TECPAK, the major sponsors of the awards. (Thanks to Mary-Ann Lindsay for supplying the bulk of the photographs for this issue.)*

The NZ Beekeeper is published eleven times per annum; February to December. All copy should be with the Editor by the 1st day of the month of publication except for December when copy should be received by 20th

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From the President

As the newly elected president of the NBA, I am looking forward to a year of hard work on behalf of all beekeepers. Major issues confronting us as beekeepers include:

- * ensuring the industry organisation's continuity through a Commodity Levy application
- * maintaining and extending the AFB control/eradication programme that we require
- * putting into place an effective marketing programme for continued profitability
- * enabling realistic conditions for export of bees, queens and honey
- * protecting our relative pest and disease free status, maintaining both border protection services and the surveillance systems that back it up.

I hope to use these notes each month to report timely

information about these topics, so that beekeepers can be kept informed about the work that happens on their behalf. The areas of political representations, lobbying and co-ordination of the groups that make up the greater beekeeping industry tend to be the "hidden" part of beekeeping. Effectiveness in these areas can be just as important to beekeepers as getting a crop in the long run.

The NBA has a lot for which to be proud. For the size of our organisation, we exert an unexpected degree of influence on government and other agencies to ensure the voice of beekeeping is considered. We don't always win the arguments, but we try to make sure that the unique requirements of our members get included in the discussions that concern us.

I look forward to working for you in the coming year.

Nick Wallingford



Frances Trewby holding the lovely carved box and wearing the Maori carving which is the symbol of the Presidency. These were presented by the Morrison family of Rotorua at the time of the Rotorua conference. Details of these gifts and symbols will be detailed in a future edition of the Beekeeper.

Honoured for contribution to beekeeping

To his absolute dismay and disbelief Keith Herron of Southland was elected to and presented with the NBA's highest honour, that of Life Membership. One had to be at conference to see Keith's face and his posture alter as he suddenly realised that the person that conference was addressing was himself. A well kept nomination secret even at his Branch, the nomination and award was received with unanimous acclamation and congratulations of conference.



Outgoing NBA President Frances Trewby and incoming NBA President Nick Wallingford.



TECPAK Industries

“Beekeeper of the Year” Awards



The finalists concentrating on a question, one of many put to them during the contest. All displayed an excellent knowledge of Beekeeping and general knowledge also. Personal details are shown on page 7.

Hosted by the Bay of Plenty Branch of the National Beekeepers Association

Sponsors involved: TecPak Industries, Air New Zealand, MAF Quality Management, Mahurangi Hiveware, Ceracell Apiarists Supplies, Nexus Packaging Systems, International Bee Research Association. Compere: Clive Dalton.

The Purpose of the Awards:

To recognise excellence and endeavour.

Guest Speaker - Sir Edmund Hillary

Sir Edmund in his address which was warm and colourful said: It was a pleasure to be in Tauranga in this resounding group of beekeepers. It didn't seem like so long ago when he was keeping bees.

He was born in Auckland, raised in Tuakau, about 40 miles south of Auckland. His father was an editor of a newspaper, the Tuakau District News. They had a corrugated iron building on the property that had the press. His father did most of the work, including the reporting. He took him to rugby matches that he was covering.

His father did just about all the work of the newspaper - making it up, printing it (weekly), but didn't deliver it.

Sir Edmund noted that his father took up beekeeping as a hobby. He was a man of very strong principles, as Edmund discovered to his cost on many occasions, being taken to the woodshed. His father has very high standards.

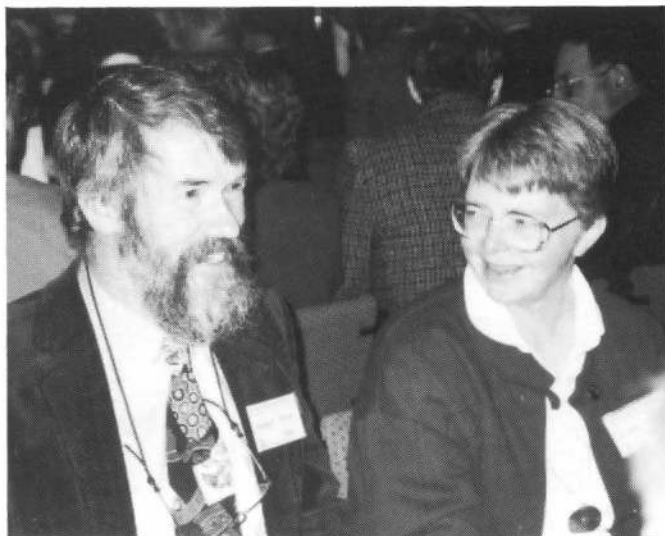
After a strong disagreement with directors of the newspaper, his father resigned, and increased his hive numbers to make a living from them. This was when he, Sir Edmund was young. By 14 or 15 he was doing a man's work in the summer holidays, along with his brother Rex. It was hard work, but he enjoyed it and found it a challenge. The hardness he accepted as a part of life. He was not paid, apart from the odd shilling now and then for the pictures. He never did get money from his father for the beekeeping work.

Sir Edmund said that he knows that beekeeping is all mechanical now, that beekeepers don't do hard work at all (laughter!). He remembers Rex

and himself being keen to go to the pictures just before Christmas. Two days before Christmas, they took off 100 supers and extracted at night, rather than the next day as was usually the case and worked all night to extract them. His father took them to town, gave them a few shillings, they went to three successive film shows! Drove back on Christmas Eve and then spent Christmas back working the bees again.

Beekeeping was vigorous work and he never felt badly done by. He was underpaid, but didn't worry about that. He enjoyed it. He remembers the Model T Ford truck they would travel some distance to take off honey, carting 80 pound boxes around, then drive home in dark. His father would tend to fall asleep, so Sir Edmund would have to keep watch and jab him in the ribs when he started to drive off the road.

His father was involved in early days of the NZ Beekeeping Association and served terms as Secretary and President. As he always still enjoyed the work of being a reporter, he even edited the bee magazine at times.

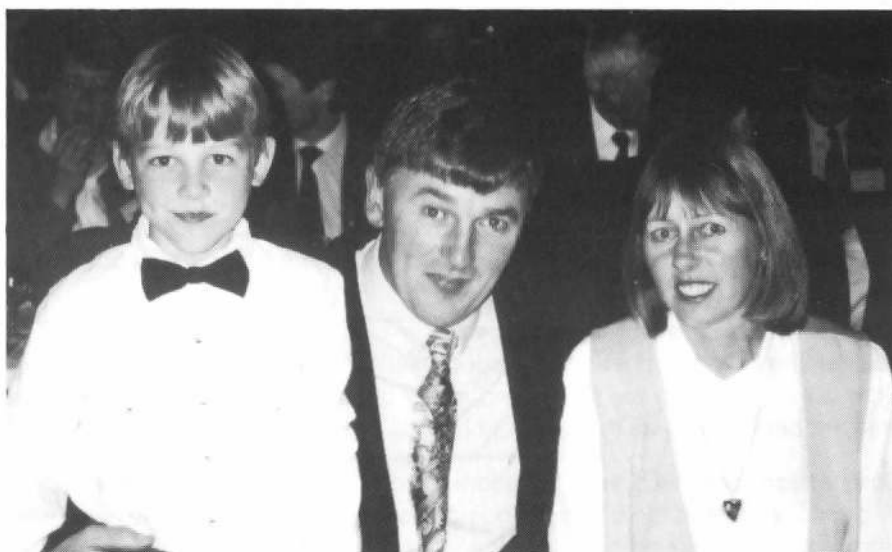


Rex and Sir Edmund worked with their father into their teens and early 20s. Sir Edmund went to university for 2 years, but did not like it, he was an early drop out before it became fashionable. They worked with about 1600 hives, producing 20-40 tons a year of honey.

South Auckland was not as productive as other areas. Rex and he would compete and race to truck with 80 to 90 pound boxes of honey. In the shed Sir Edmund would do the uncapping, Rex working the extractor. They had a 54 frame radial extractor. He and Rex would race, extracting 20 supers per hour.

In the late 1940s, his dad retired. He realises now that he and Rex pushed him out as sons often do. The brothers took over the business, paying off their father over many years, as he drove such a hard bargain!

Sir Edmund liked mountaineering and would take off several weeks in February to go to the Southern Alps, then later the Himalayas and the Antarctic, leaving Rex to take care of the bees.



1959 was the last year he worked the bees. Bunny Foukes had invited him on a lecture tour, but he decided to do a year with the bees. After that he got involved in things in the US, bringing to an end his beekeeping life. It was 30 years now since he last looked in a beehive. He enjoyed the bees. Money was not a consideration; didn't have any anyway, he joked.

His mother was born in northern Wairoa and trained as a

schoolteacher. She was a strong woman but physically delicate. His father was an energetic man at working for good causes, but not a very good financial provider. His mother took up the task of Queenrearing and worked at that as an active professional for a number of years.

Parents later moved to Auckland, to a nice house in Remuera. Sir

continued on page 6 ➡



Photos on this page show the finalists with their supporters in business and in life

Edmund figures his dad did save some money, or maybe they just had a good crop that year. Beekeeping helped him to grow up strong, robust and energetic. Mother used to say, "When we have honey we have money."

He remembers a call from a Canadian beekeeper visiting NZ on a luxury liner and agreed to take him out on the bees for a day. They had a busy day, going to the bees at Papakura. He took off a load of honey in the morning, extracted it in the afternoon. The visitor worked hard and said he had 200 hives near Calgary. Sir Edmund couldn't understand how he could afford to travel in luxury like that. When he took him to the wharf, the visitor admitted he had 200 hives, but also had 6 oil wells!

Sir Edmund worked with 1600 hives. Once in the US he was introduced to a suave looking fellow who was a beekeeper. Turned out he had 16,000 hives. 16 yards of 1,000 hives in each.

Sir Edmund noted that the beekeeping industry appears more successful than it was in his day. Beekeeper skills are higher than the rough and ready of his days. But all in all, no one enjoyed beekeeping as much as did he and his brother Rex.

Competition took place, with questions being asked of the contestants. Only 17 points separated the 6 finalists going into these finals, so anyone could win. Humorous and enjoyable session.

Steve Olds of TecPak Industries described that his company was supporting the contest for both its educational value and as a thank you to the industry for support over the years.

Ian Berry (a past National Beekeepers Assn president) gave the envelopes to Sir Edmund. Ian remembers working some hives out east of Masterton one day. Woman ran from the house calling "Edmund Hillary has climbed Mt Everest." Ian remembers that at the time, there was a lot of pressure on the price on honey (keeping it down) from a large shipment of cheap English jams that had been imported. When Hillary went up Mt Everest, the price of honey took off!!

Second runner up: Steve Weenink. Prizes included packaging from Nexus Packaging. International Bee Research Assn and MAF Quality Management prizes.

First runner up; Jan Van Hoof. Prizes from Ceracell and IBRA.

Winner: Bruce McCusker. Prizes include (from TecPak Industries) air ticket to Sweden to Apimondia Beekeeping Conference (value \$3,500), \$1000 spending money, TecPak packaging (value \$2,000), and TecPak supplied packaging (value \$1,000). Also Air NZ Mystery Escape weekend for two. Also 1000 frames (value \$600) from Mahurangi Hiveware. Book from IBRA. One year IBRA membership (value \$200). Total value about \$11,000!

The trophy is a gold plated hive tool, mounted on rewarewa and manuka stand. Sir Edmund was presented with two gift baskets (royal jelly, royal jelly honey and pollen, manuka honey and honey and fruit mixes). For Lady Hillary, royal jelly hair cleansing, shampoo and conditioners.

The Bay of Plenty Branch presented Sir Edmund with a donation to his Himalayan Trust in gratitude for his willingness to act as Patron for the event and help with such a good evening.

(Thanks to Nick Wallingford for these notes, Editor)



Sir Ed, Bruce McCusker and Steve Olds.

McCusker, 'Beekeeper of the Year'

The first-ever TecPak Beekeeper of the Year competition, which culminated in an entertaining dinner and beekeeping knowledge quiz on Thursday night, was won by Bruce McCusker of Heathstock Apiaries, Hawarden, North Canterbury.

Bruce managed to just out-point a talented group of finalists which included Gerrit Kruithoed, Te Kuiti; Dale Gifford, Paengaroa; Jan Van Hoof, Pleasant Valley; Steve Weenink, Tauranga; and Gerrit Hyink, Katikati.

The competition, which was judged by Ian Berry (Hawke's Bay), Ivan Dickenson (Otago) and Arthur Edwards (Bay of Plenty), included a detailed financial analysis of contestant's accounts carried out by Cliff Van Eaton of MAF Quality Management, in-depth personal interviews with the judges, and a five minute speech given by each contestant at a conference breakfast on Wednesday morning. The financial analysis represented 75% of the total marks for the competition, and the standard set by the six finalists was certainly high. Average figures for the three financial criteria used in the judging were: Gross Revenue - \$184 per hive; Net Operating Surplus - \$86 per hive; and Internal Rate of Return - 28%.

The competition was sponsored by a list of industry servicing companies, headed by TecPak Industries, who manufacture containers including the now-famous safety top honey pot. TecPak provided a major share of the first prize in the form of a trip to Apimondia in Europe next year. Other major sponsors included Air New Zealand, Mahurangi Hiveware, and MAF Quality Management.

Those attending the dinner were also honoured by the presence of Sir Edmund Hillary, who graciously agreed to act as patron for the event.

continued on page 7 ➔

The Finalists: 1994 TECPAK Industries Beekeeper of the Year

Bruce McCusker of Heathstock Apiaries, Hawarden, North Canterbury

Bruce and his wife started beekeeping 14 years ago with 200 hives. They now run 1200 hives in partnership with Bruce's brother. Bruce produces honey from a variety of floral sources in both bulk and full frame combs, and exports many of his products on his own behalf. His business has also recently received BioGro organic certification.

Gerrit Kruithoed of Pink Sun Apiaries, Te Kuiti, King Country

Gerrit has quietly built up his business to 400 hives in the past few years while working for John Bassett of Waitomo Honey Products, Te Kuiti. Pink Sun Apiaries is now a going concern, and Gerrit and his wife have invested in extensive machinery and plant, all from the proceeds of their hives. Gerrit concentrates on producing added-value honey.

Dale Gifford of Comvita Apiaries, Paengaroa, Bay of Plenty

Dale began his beekeeping career by working for several years for Comvita Laboratories, and then leasing their hives. He was successful enough that after three years he and his wife were able to purchase the beekeeping business outright. Dale is mainly involved in kiwifruit pollination, but honey production is also an important source of income. Dale is currently running 1200 hives.

Jan van Hoof from Pleasant Valley, near Geraldine, South Canterbury

Jan runs 900 colonies using a two-queen system he learned while working for Mervyn and Harry Cloake of Cloake's Honey, Timaru. Jan concentrates on comb honey, but produces bulk honey as well. Recently, Jan and his wife have diversified their beekeeping business and are producing an excellent range of beeswax candles and furniture polish.

Steve Weenink from Tauriko, near Tauranga, Bay of Plenty

Steve bought an existing small beekeeping outfit in the area some 14 years ago, and now has 2000 hives. Steve runs a successful kiwifruit pollination business, and then places his hives throughout the Bay of Plenty/Waikato and as far away as National Park, chasing lucrative speciality honey flows. He has also recently become involved with the live bee export trade, in association with Dudley and James Ward of Kintail Honey, Dannevirke

Gerrit Hyink of Hyink's Pollination Services, Katikati, Bay of Plenty

Gerrit and his wife run 950 hives and specialise in crop pollination, notably kiwifruit. For the Hyninks, honey is a by-product and bonus on top of their other income. They also supply bulk bees for export and Gerrit is fast making a name for himself in glasshouse tomato pollination using the many colonies of bumblebees he has established.



continued from page 6 ➡

'Sir Ed' (as he prefers to be called), captivated the audience with an entertaining and amusing recollection of his early days in beekeeping, before he started his famous adventures in other parts of the world. A transcript of that address, which now takes its place in the history of beekeeping in our country is published in this issue of the *NZ Beekeeper*.

In the winner's speech, Bruce McCusker identified his attention to detail, which he had learned in his previous career as a printer, as a major key to his success. And in receiving the Beekeeper of the Year trophy, a golden hive tool set in a rewarewa and manuka mount (the BOP branch hopes wood from other bee trees will be added in future competitions), Bruce reckoned that this, at least, would be one hive tool he wouldn't leave on the lid of a hive!



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An innovative success

This year's conference at Tauranga was bound to turn some heads. The Bay of Plenty branch took a risk, and decided to intersperse educational sessions throughout the conference week instead of just setting aside one seminar day. The branch also aggressively sought sponsorship from a variety of sources, both within the beekeeping servicing sector and elsewhere. As a result they were able to bring in two overseas speakers, something which hasn't happened at conference for a very long time.

And then of course there was the TecPak Beekeeper of the Year competition, an idea which started in the Bay of Plenty in the early 1980's as the Young Beekeeper of the Year, but which was slow to be taken up by the industry as a whole. According to John Fear, convenor of the competition, the branch hoped the event would help 'honour what's best about beekeeping in New Zealand.'

So to say the branch succeeded in its goal of providing an innovative, dynamic and very positive conference is almost an understatement. The week was filled with ideas and interest and more than a little bit of fun. The only complaint from participants seemed to be that the week was 'too long', and filled with too many events. Interestingly, though, the two half-day/ three full day format has been evolving at conference now for several years. And in fact, the Gore conference last year began with sector group meetings on Monday and carried on with an important export certification meeting that didn't end until Friday noon. What was different about the Tauranga conference, though were the attendances. There was strong interest for every session, with numbers never dropping below 100

Top: Ross Meurant MP, Under-secretary for Agriculture with Murray Reid and Ted Roberts shown at the conference where Mr Meurant provided a key note address.

Middle: Five members of the NBA Executive answer questions from the floor and provide explanations in respect to various industry matters. From left: Russell Berry, Frances Trewby (president), Richard Bensemenn, Graham Cammell and Mervyn Cloake.

Lower: Allen McCaw speaking to an item of the business at conference with others "thoughtfully" considering his contribution.

in the conference room throughout the week. And some events, such as the Beekeeper of the Year dinner, were so fully subscribed (190 beekeepers, partners and friends), that at least 40 people had to be turned away because there just wasn't any more room.

Two important people attending conference paid tribute to the innovative way conference was organised. The first, out-going president Frances Trewby, said that she greatly appreciated the fact that the Annual General Meeting and Conference of Delegates were broken up by afternoon workshop sessions. She felt it allowed delegates to remain fresh when

discussing remits, and also greatly eased her stress in carrying out the duties of chairperson.

The other comment came from Andrew Matheson, from AAO with MAF, and now director of the International Bee Research Association in the United Kingdom. Andrew was a surprise guest at the last day of conference. According to Andrew, 'I knew just by reading the information in *The New Zealand Beekeeper* over the past few months that this conference was going to be something quite different.' And he paid homage to the Bay of Plenty branch saying, 'You've turned conference on its head. You've set a



standard which others will have to work hard to follow, and I take my hat off to the organisers. It was a job well-done.' To that we can only add, 'Quality is a journey, not a destination', and we're sure the Canterbury branch next year will do just as well.

Fresh ideas from abroad

It's been quite a while since we've had overseas guest speakers at conference, but this year we were fortunate to have two. Dr Mark Winston, from Simon Fraser University in British Columbia, Canada, was sponsored to come to New Zealand during conference time by the Tauranga Fruitgrowers Federation, and David Sundberg, President of the American Beekeepers Federation, accepted a last-minute invitation from the conference organisers, and was flown from the States courtesy of Air New Zealand. Both speakers gave interesting and informative presentations on issues of importance to New Zealand beekeepers. And as is often the case with overseas speakers, they gave us a fresh perspective on our industry and how our beekeeping compares with other parts of the world.

Dr Winston is a world authority on the Africanised bee (AHB), having studied the strain in both South and Central America with Dr Orley "Chip" Taylor from the University of Kansas, the man who first predicted the bee's spread into the United States. Dr

Winston gave a riveting presentation on the bee, which many regard as the most interesting insect phenomena of the twentieth century.

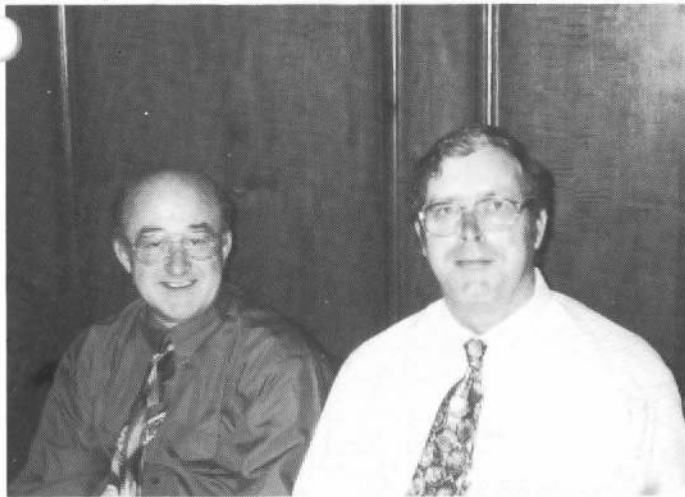
According to Dr Winston, the adaptations the AHB made to live in the harsh tropical environment of Africa provided it with all the necessary characteristics to be highly successful in colonising the Americas. These include the bee's propensity to swarm (producing on average 72 swarms from a colony and its progeny each year), abscond (when no food is available), and of course defend its colony from predators. The venom of the AHB is no different from other races in either make up or amount. By contrast, however, the AHB responds far more aggressively and in greater numbers than the other races when the alarm and sting pheromones are released. The AHB has now reached Texas, and its effects are just starting to be experienced by beekeepers in that area. Ross Meurant, the Under-secretary of Agriculture, said in a speech to conference on Tuesday

that he didn't believe the bee was a problem there and that New Zealand had nothing to fear.

According to Dr Winston, however, "to say that the Africanised honey bee is not a problem in Texas is just not true. What they had in Texas was a model plan to deal with it, and you in New Zealand will need one, too, if you want to handle the bees should they ever arrive." Dr Winston said that the excellent systems beekeeper registration, hive inspection and surveillance for exotic bee diseases we have in New Zealand are just what are needed to deal properly with such a threat. However, he cautioned, "if that ever breaks down, you could have serious problems."

Dr Winston also clearly identified the extent of the risk to New Zealand. He said that the problem wouldn't arise from the chance introduction of a swarm, but from someone who smuggled queens with Africanised genes into New Zealand, thinking that they knew best how to improve our bee stocks. If that happened, he

continued on page 14 ➡



Above: Gavin McKenzie (Telford Rural Polytechnic) and Keith Herron at conference.

Top right: Popular guests and speakers at the conference were (left) President of the American Beekeepers Federation David Sundberg and Dr Mark Winston from Simon Fraser University, British Columbia.

Photo courtesy of Peter Wakelin, Tauranga

Lower right: A surprise but welcome guest was Andrew Matheson (right) seen here with Cliff Van Eaton.

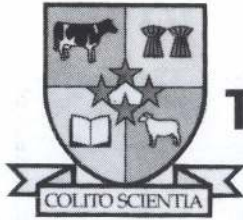




Photo courtesy of Peter Wakelin of Tauranga

On a personal note

The photograph shows most of those who attended conference in Tauranga. Congratulations to all who had anything to do with the conference it was well executed and fulfilled the expectations that many had of the week. Clearly the effort that went into every activity made for the success. Well done the team from BOP.



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Telford Rural Polytechnic – THE SPECIALISTS IN LAND BASED EDUCATION

CONFERENCE 1994 - By Bill Floyd

Conference was a great event
.....Congratulations to the organisers.

And thank you to all delegates for creating a positive platform for the Marketing Committee to launch the Honey Innovation Awards.

I also appreciated the positive comments from many delegates about the industry's generic Marketing Strategies and their results to date.

Our relatively limited funds means we have to initiate or use situations where we get more than a dollar value from a dollar spent. That's happening now with the Food Awards and the Honey and S.E.X. exercise. "Honey and S.E.X.2 has already gained the industry prime time radio and television coverage worth thousands of dollars (because people like/like knowing about/like talking about honey!)

Market Research

All Branch Secretaries have a full copy of the Market Research report. If any (hive-levy-paid-up) member of the NBA wants a copy for their own use they're available from the NZ Honey Food Ingredient Advisory Service, PO Box 32, Blenheim. Tel 03 577 6103 or Fax 03 577 8429. Cost including post/pack is \$15 per copy.

The key facts to emerge from the market research are:

New Zealanders are the world's greatest honey lovers

- 88% of all New Zealanders eat honey
- 71% of all New Zealanders believe honey is nutritionally better than sugar
- 84% of all New Zealanders believe honey is one of the most natural foods

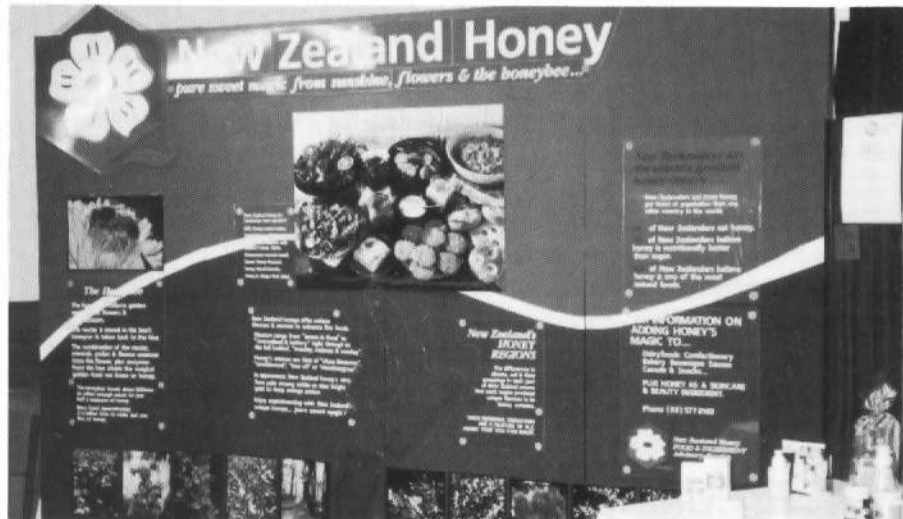
We also know that New Zealanders eat more honey per capita than ANY OTHER COUNTRY IN THE WORLD.

This information is very good news for the industry and will be used intensively by the Marketing Committee over the next 2-3 years.

More snippets from the research in next month's Beekeeper.

New Zealand Honey Food Ingredient Advisory Service

This is an entity established by the Marketing Committee to provide information and advice to companies



about honey.

The key objective is to create opportunities for NZ food and ingredient manufacturers by helping them add value through adding honey!

The US Honey Bureau has been very helpful to NBA members; providing us with an amazing amount of highly professional and useful technical resource material on honey applications.

This is exclusively available to all (hive-levy-paying) NBA members.

A special Customer Kit has been developed that includes this information. A complimentary copy of the kit will be sent to each Branch Secretary early August. Additional copies will be available to individual members at a cost to members of \$40.00 per kit (includes p & p and G.S.T.)

Industry Marketing Logo

The logo for the Food Ingredient Advisory Service is a stylised flower on a blue skies and green grass background. The background border is in the shape of the honeycomb hexagon.

The emphasis on a flower rather than a bee is to reinforce the fact that honey comes from floral nectar, not bees. This "positioning" of the source of honey makes it easier for consumers to then appreciate that there must (obviously) be different flavours and values in honeys just as flowers themselves vary from each other.

This strategy helps to break down the image of honey as "just honey" and allows individual beekeepers and packers to price their products to suit

the values of their own particular mono or multifloral product.

Your Display Resource

This display Kit is owned by the industry. It is available to Branches for events and promotion (eg along the lines of the Canterbury Beekeepers' "Linwood City Honey Week"). It is also available to (hive levy paying individual NBA members for their own promotions (for example Trade Fairs etc).

The display is an expensive resource (the fully collapsible aluminium frame and velour backdrop alone cost \$5,500), but the unit is very light, very portable, and easy to erect.

The more the unit is used the more NZ honey is promoted and the more the unit becomes an investment.

Therefore there is no hire cost to Branches (although they will have to pay freight costs to/from Blenheim where it is stored).

NBA members can hire the unit to use themselves for \$50 per day plus freight costs.

Unfortunately if elements are lost or damaged, the Branch or the individual NBA member will be responsible for the replacement cost.

A diary is being kept for the unit - IF YOU ARE PLANNING AN EVENT, BOOK THE UNIT! (It cannot be in two places at the same time).

Many of those who saw the display at Conference commented on the beautiful bee photo, our thanks to Carl Thompson of Rangiora for making it available to the industry — it's a superb photograph that captures the golden magic of nectar gathering.



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1 – 9	ea	\$6.00
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Ceracell Apiarists Supplies

continued from page 9 ➔

believed the problem would be very great, especially since the overseas experience suggests that much of New Zealand has the climate and food resource preferred by the AHB. "The problems here would be severe," according to Dr Winston, "although like in the Americas beekeepers who adapted to the bee would learn to cope." "Beekeeping wouldn't be fun any more, and a number of beekeepers would give up."

If the AHB became established in New Zealand, however, the beekeeping problems would be negligible compared to the affects on horticulture and agriculture. New Zealand beekeepers annually shift over 1/3 of their hives onto orchards and farms to provide essential pollination for over NZ \$1,004 million worth of export crops. According to Dr Winston, however, once the AHB arrived, the aggressiveness shown by the bees when beekeepers attempted to move them would make commercial pollination impossible. "If you get the Africanised bee in New Zealand," he said, "all I can say is that you used to shift one third of your colonies into pollination each year."

Dr Winston also gave a highly interesting talk on another of his research topics, a subject which probably very few beekeepers in New Zealand had heard about before in depth. Dr Winston and his colleague Dr Keith Slessor have managed to identify and synthesise the five substances which make up the queen mandibular pheromone (QMP), a primer pheromone which keeps worker bees from developing ovaries and raising queen cells. Interestingly, according to Dr Winston, QMP is the only such "primer pheromone" identified in social insects so far.

The synthesised pheromone is now being marketed by a firm in Canada as a stabiliser for bulk bees, and also seems to have promise as a swarm suppressor in strong hives just before the flow. In fact, Dr Winston hopes to encourage researchers in this country to carry out a swarm control study using QMP lures similar to one he has just completed in Canada, so that he can get the equivalent of two year's results in the next twelve months.

Most of Dr Winston's second talk was

taken up with another use for QMP, however, and that relates to the unexplained ability the pheromone has in some cases to improve foraging and pollen collection by worker bees when it is sprayed on crops. The effect is unexplained because QMP is not naturally used by bees to mark flowers during pollen and nectar collection.

Dr Winston is quick to point out that QMP doesn't work in all cases and for all crops, and in fact doesn't recommend it for apples, cranberries and cherries. He says it is better suited to crops which are hard to pollinate and for which an increase in fruit size results in a disproportionate increase in return to the grower.

Based on those criteria, kiwifruit would look to be a prime candidate, and Dr Winston would also like to encourage trials of QMP on that crop here in New Zealand. Unlike other pollination enhancement products on the market, however, Dr Winston is loath to recommend QMP's use on kiwifruit until good, controlled trials are carried out. And even if successful, he doesn't believe its use would result in less beehives being used in kiwifruit. "I would be very reluctant to recommend fewer beehives," he said. "What QMP does is focus what you have, which for reasons such as poor weather may sometimes be insufficient to fully

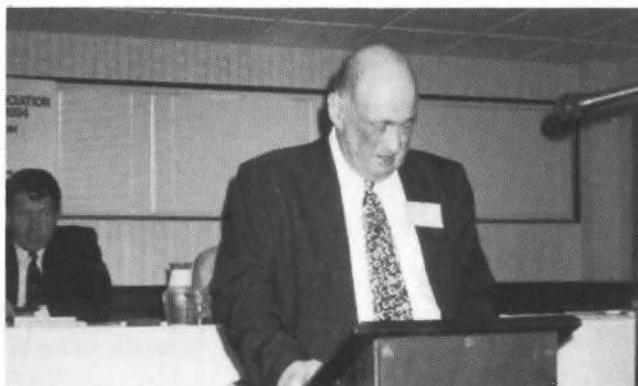
pollinate the crop."

David Sundberg's talk came right at the end of conference, just before a presentation by Dr Chris Boland from the MAF Regulatory Authority explaining why the government recently had decided not to fund the development of Pest Management Strategies for exotic bee diseases. Mr Sundberg outlined the problems and pitfalls of the US government's approach to findings of tracheal and varroa mites in his country. He said he hoped New Zealand would learn from the Americans' mistakes, one of which was the lack of good surveillance systems the USDA had which could have allowed them to actually find the mites early enough so that something could have been done.

And on the subject of opening up the US border to New Zealand queen and packages, Mr Sundberg has this to say: "Commercial beekeepers like myself would like to see New Zealand queens allowed into the US. Africanised bees are right on our doorstep in the States, and it would be nice to have somewhere in the world where we could get guaranteed non-Africanised queens and bee stocks." Let's just hope US government officials agree with him this time.



Top: Frances Trewby receiving a bouquet of flowers on conclusion of the conference. The presenter of the flowers is vice-president Richard Bensemann.



Lower: Terry Gavin addressing conference. Ross Meurant MP in the background.

EDPR joint exercise

What you might ask is EDPR? Well it is not just to get your attention. It stands for Exotic Disease and Pest Response, the system used by MAF Quality Management (MQM) to respond to an outbreak of a serious new pest or disease in New Zealand. For bees these are mites, European foulbrood and Africanised honeybees. As well as exotic bee diseases there are procedures for foot and mouth disease and fruitfly.

In September, from the 12th to the 16th, MQM, the Canterbury and South Canterbury branches of the National Beekeepers Association are going to hold a joint EDPR training exercise, based in Christchurch and inspecting hives in the rural districts surrounding the city.

How did this come about? Last year MQM held a bee EDPR training workshop in Wellington to test out headquarters and train staff. By coincidence Richard Bensemman and Mervyn Cloake were in Wellington at the same time and were invited to observe what was going on. What they saw gave them confidence enough to suggest that MQM run a similar exercise in Christchurch with the cooperation of real beekeepers inspecting real beehives. This planned joint exercise is the result.

A headquarters will be up to operate from a Christchurch hotel, exactly as would happen in a real response. This will run by MQM staff trained in field team management, tracing and movement control, managed by a Headquarters Controller. These are people who would have similar roles in a response to foot and mouth disease or a fruitfly outbreak.

As most of these people have little direct knowledge of bees or the beekeeping industry, at least one Apicultural Advisory Officer will have a key role in the management team as a Technical Adviser.

Operating from the headquarters will be Field Teams of one warranted MQM officer and two beekeepers. These teams will be inspecting apiaries for the presence of disease, in the same way as they would during a delimiting survey in an exotic disease response.

The beekeeper Field Team Members will be members of the Canterbury and South Canterbury NBA branches providing a voluntary two or three days of their expertise and labour.

To make the exercise realistic and provide real value to the local beekeeping industry, the field teams will be inspecting hives for AFB. This could be a real scenario after the year 2001 after AFB has been eradicated as a result of the AFB Pest Management Strategy. AFB will then have been reclassified as an exotic disease.

Any diseased hives found by this exercise will be reported back to the headquarters and dealt with after the exercise as part of the AFB control contract.

As well as an AFB inspection of a significant number of hives in the Canterbury district the exercise will provide training for beekeepers and MQM staff in exotic disease response procedures and hopefully lead to a better understanding and working relationship between the two groups.

Bee EDPR has to be a partnership between the beekeeping industry and MQM. The industry has the skilled manpower resource while MQM has the organisational training and legal authority. We hope this exercise will be a positive demonstration of this partnership in action.

For further information contact the writers

Richard Bensemman, NBA Vice-President, ph 03 308 8423
Derek Bettesworth, Process Manager Bee EDPR ph 09 437 2822

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In short

Frances Trewby - Immediate Past President

Conference was well served by the excellent chairing displayed by Frances Trewby. Numerous comments were made during conference and letters have been received since that commented warmly on the manner in which Frances handled a task that is not always easy.

On a personal note the conference and we are sure the whole of the industry join in congratulating Frances on her marriage on 6th August. Every good wish for a wonderful future to you both, Frances.

Executive Elections

Most will now be aware that the two new faces on the National Executive are: Keith Herron from Southland (made a Life Member of NBA at conference for previous work over many years) and Nick Wallingford of Bay of Plenty, who also was elected to the office of President of the NBA at the recent conference.

Both Nick and Keith are not new to Executive of course with both having served earlier on the NBA Executive.

President's Charity

During the recent conference \$30 was collected from those whose cell phones rang during the conference proceedings Immediate Past President Frances Trewby donated that money to Save The Children Fund Rwanda appeal.

1995 Conference to be in lovely Christchurch

Watch for details — given the enthusiasm and innovativeness of the Cantabrian beekeepers you can be sure of a great conference.

1996 Conference to be held in Wanganui

The Southern North Island Branch won their bid to host the 1996 conference in the River City, Wanganui will certainly give of its best to be fine hosts to this important event.

"People in an organisation add value. And it's up to the leaders of any organisation to ensure that all the members create that value."- Steve Olds

Letters

Concern over carniolans

Dear Sir,

I tend to ignore some articles seen in your publication which may tend to support prejudices rather than facts, but after reading Bruce Stevenson's article on Carniolans I was stirred to reply.

I realise any comments made by me in this letter will have no real affect as by time of publication, a decision will be made.

My main concern is that the article gave only benefits rather than both sides of the story.

I remember distinctly the same arguments being given supporting importation of Carniolan semen from Western Australia. I have yet to see any of the benefits reported, so why are we led to believe the same benefits will be seen this time.

I have often had comments from overseas buyers which were very anti the Carniolan strains they had imported.

As far as Canada goes, I feel the desire for Carniolans is a myth. What beekeepers both here and overseas require is a carefully selected strain with the features Bruce listed. A breed as such may or not possess

these features depending on the ability of the queen breeder.

I know from my own personal experience, we could sell all queens we can produce of our strain in Canada but have limited numbers to offer.

The beekeepers there buy a known strain rather than a breed.

I imagine with such advertising and beekeeper's short memories, the decision will be made to import Carniolan semen from Germany.

My main concern is that the new genetic material does not introduce new viruses, as to date we have virtually eliminated the effect of sac brood and paralysis viruses from our stock and don't want to have to start with a new one.

I am certain Germany will have a good selection of viruses for us to work on.

It seems interesting that most of the features listed in the article as being desirable are already found in our selected strain. Perhaps Bruce hasn't had the pleasure of seeing what can be done with the bees already in New Zealand.

Yours Gary Jeffery

OBITUARY

John Mentjox, a member of the Waikato branch of the NBA passed away suddenly on 19 May 1994. John came to New Zealand in 1969 from Holland and found work in Tokoroa. There he met local nurse Sandra whom he married in 1972. Sandra and John then spent the next 4 years overseas working in Australia, Holland and England and travelling overland through Asia, the Middle East and Europe. They returned to Tokoroa in 1976 and John started work with New Zealand Forest Products. John's interest in bees began in 1980 with the purchase of 2 beehives. Within the next couple of years hive numbers continued to grow necessitating a move away from a town section. In December 1982 they bought a few acres on the edge of Putaruru and up to the time of his death were running a few hundred beehives.

While still holding down a full time job as computer systems co-ordinator for the Kinleith Mill John never lost enthusiasm for beekeeping. Aply assisted by Sandra they produced bulk honey, raised queen bees and supplied hives for kiwifruit pollination. John still found time to be involved in his children's education and was Treasurer of the Board of Trustees of Putaruru West School.

John is survived by his wife and 4 daughters, Lauren, Kate-Anna, Claire and Gabrielle.

Honeycomb Directory

Various headings will be used within this directory as required by advertisers and will include:

Beeswax, Honey, Bee Products, Woodware, Beekeepers supplies/accessories, Queens & packaging bees, Packaging Materials, FMG Insurance, Extracting services, laboratory services; Sugar supplies. The cost will be \$30 per comb, per issue (with 6 or more issues at \$20 per issue).

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the industry.

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Levin

Notes for Beginners and others

Bees and beekeepers are starting to move again now that winter is (hopefully) over. From early spring till the start of the main honey flow is the most important phase in hive management. Proper management will make the difference between good, mediocre or poor results, always keeping in mind that weather conditions during the honey flow are beyond our control. The risk we have to live with.

Colonies have to reach the peak of foraging strength at the right time. Take the main flowering period of white clover. Earlier in Auckland than in Southland, heavy or light soil, low or higher altitude cause variations in the timing. So it is up to you to gain this necessary knowledge about your own patch and about the variations within that patch.

egg, unsealed, sealed br.	tasks within hive,	foraging (field bees)	R.I.P
3 weeks	3 weeks	3 weeks more or less	+

So if the flow in your part starts on 1 December, the eggs laid from 6 to 8 weeks earlier represent the field bee force and the eggs laid from 6 weeks to say 1 month before the start of the flow will provide replacement field bees during the flow, preferably picking a fine calm day, surely we can expect some.

- 1 Lift out comb nearest to the side of the super.
- 2 Move the next few towards you and lift out comb with brood. Shake off bees into gap. Thoroughly examine brood for irregularities especially signs of B.L. (Am. foulbrood). Watch for irregular brood pattern, sunken and darker coloured cappings, perforated cappings. If these signs show up use match stick test. In case of disease replace combs immediately and close up hive. If things seem to be O.K carry on inspecting following brood combs.
- 3 Lift off top super and place on lid. Inspect combs in bottom box. Probably little or no brood at this stage but any odd sealed over cells should be examined.
- 4 Clean debris off bottom board or better replace

How to define that peak of foraging strength? A colony will come out of the winter with say an average of 20,000 bees. These have lived a long time and will now die at a fairly rapid rate. Replacements are needed. Bees born now will have a shorter life span than the "winter" bees. These will need replacement in their turn as well. Then the population has to be trebled or even quadrupled to reach that peak often quoted at about 60,000. A formidable task indeed showing the need for a good vigorous queen, ample and uninterrupted supply of honey and pollen (supplemented when needed). This peak must be reached at the correct time, that is at the start of the flow in your particular patch.

with a spare. Best to clean it away from hives.

5 Re-assemble hive. Make certain about stores. Never less than the equivalent of 3 f.d. combs. If needed arrange for supplementary feeding. (Strong syrup best at present.)

If no brood is present, hive may be queenless. Best to unite with nuc or other hive. Raising young queens can only be done when there are mature drones about for mating. Mark hives due for re-queening. Poor brood pattern, signs of such brood, failing queen, age (2 years old+) or extreme stropiness.

Always beware of robbing. No need to remove entrance guards or blocs just yet. It is too early for using foundation. Replace poor combs with build out ones. Do not divide the broodnest with a replacement comb or comb of feed. Place alongside the brood nest. Good young queens are the answer to many of the beekeeper's problems and assist greatly in achieving the right strength at the right time and lessen the risk of swarming.

JOHN HEINEMANN

From the Colonies

Southern North Island branch

A recent meeting of the group saw a lively debate on the following items:

Live Bee Exports

Concern - that queen breeders have had a raw deal over exports to Korea.

AFB management strategy

Basically agreed a sound policy, with inspection onus on beekeeper. Education is vital to success of programme. Setting level of commercial beekeeper at 10 hives is acceptable figure, will even out levies over many more beekeepers than at present.

Honey Imports

Members still not in favour - will closely monitor the reviews underway - better communication from all involved would be appreciated.

1080

Better liaison still necessary as Health Dept still insist on 2km separation of hives from drop sites. Taranaki members report excellent co-operation in their area - is this unique?

Apiary Register

Concern that register used for activities other than beekeeping

- report of civil defence having location of hive sites in their planning - beekeepers need assurance that hive site location information is secure.

New Head Office system

A guest at the meeting, Russell Berry assured members that a settling down period would smooth out any anomalies. Members concerned that costs be contained, in view of reports circulating that changes to the publications have not been reported fairly to members - cost savings cited as reasons for change have not held up when annual balance sheet reviewed.

Spring Field Day

Invitation from Don and Stewart Tweedale to their property on main road north, Taihape, accepted. Site location is immediately prior to reaching sawmill on main road from the township.

10am on 17th September, bring lunch, gadgets, yarns - true or otherwise.

Activities will cover commercial honey house operation, taxation, financing a small business, wasp control, occupational health and safety.

Next branch meeting — 19th August in Wanganui

Classified Advertisements

Available only to registered beekeepers selling used hives, used plant, and any other apiary equipment, and those seeking work in the industry. \$15.00 for 25 words (inclusive of G.S.T.) payable in advance. No discounts apply. No production charges. Maximum size: 1/6 page. No box number available.

✿ APPROACHING GREYPOWER ✿

Reason for scaling down operation.
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The next meeting of the CANTERBURY BRANCH will be on

Tuesday, 30th August at 7.30pm
at the Merivale Rugby Clubrooms, Woolridge Rd.

Hives for sale

\$80.00 each plus gst, two high.
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FOR SALE From mid December 1994

300 X 2 box hives on site and 200 X 2 box hives for removal. 10 frame hives with new comb and migratory equipment.

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Beekeeper to train in all aspects of beekeeping, including comb and bulk honey production, also Kiwifruit pollination. Must have driving licence.

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Phone (07) 549-0810. Main Road, R.D.2., Katikati

FOR SALE BEEHIVES UP TO 250

with new Southland bred queens
Phone (03) 249-6824
Southland

Heard at conference

New Zealand has unique floral sources which produce a range of honeys the rest of the world doesn't have. Why do you think manuka honey can be found for sale in China, the largest producer and exporter of honey in the world," - Bill Bracks

"Honey is the sleeping giant of New Zealand food products. Honey is perceived by consumers to have unique benefits that none of its competing products can supply." - Bill Floyd

"The world is moving so fast that the

man who says it can't be done is generally interrupted by someone doing it."

"With all our science, man has not been able to manufacture true honey artificially. The bees continue to keep their secret, even after all these thousands of years." - Nobby Clarke, mayor of Tauranga.

"TLC - not just 'tender loving care', but 'think like a customer'." - Alan Bougen

"You can't stop change. When I parted my hair, once upon a time I

used a comb. Now I can do it with a towel." -Terry Gavin

Also heard at conference (II)

"Industries and organisations fail as a result of poor or no planning, internal political squabbles, and poor consumer consideration. Any plan is only as good as its execution. The wrecker of planning is internal politics." - Bill Bracks

"When you're making mead, a major expense is 'shrinkage'. Shrinkage is when your mates come around for a taste!" - Brian Shanks

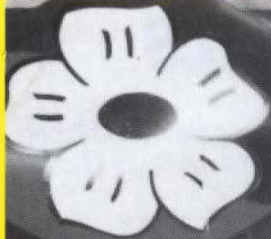
Back cover: Recipients of the 1994 Innovation Excellence trophies, from left - Graham Cammell, Beekeeper, collecting on behalf of Phoenix Natural Foods Ltd; Alan Bougen, Managing Director, Comvita Foods Ltd; Peter Bray, Beekeeper, collecting on behalf of Havill's Mazer Mead Co Ltd; Alasdair McLachlan, General Manager, Southern Fresh Milk Products Ltd.

The four trophies were awarded as part of the inaugural Honey Food Innovation Awards. 25 companies received Innovation Awards for the use of honey in a range of foods, beverages, and cosmetics.

Four companies received Excellence in Innovation trophies for outstanding achievements.

Lower Photograph:

New Zealand Honey Marketing Consultant, Bill Floyd, with the industry's promotional display stand. This stand is available to all members of the NBA to use in field days, shopping mall exhibitions, trade fairs and the like.



New Zealand Honey

• pure sweet magic from sunshine, flowers & the honeybee...



The Honeybee

The honeybee is a social insect. The nectar is stored in the honey sac & taken to the hive. The combination of nectar, pollen & enzymes from the honeybee create the golden food we know as honey.

The honeybee travels about 100 km to collect enough nectar for just half a kilogram of honey. Bees travel approximately 2.5 million km to produce one kilogram of honey.



New Zealand Honey

• pure sweet magic from sunshine, flowers & the honeybee...



The Honeybee

The honeybee collects golden nectar from flowers & uses it to make honey.

The nectar is stored in the bee's honey sac & taken back to the hive.

The combination of nectar, pollen & enzymes from the honeybee create the golden food we know as honey.

The honeybee travels about 100 km to collect enough nectar for just half a kilogram of honey.

Bees travel approximately 2.5 million km to produce one kilogram of honey.



New Zealand honey is made from the nectar of native New Zealand flowers. It is a natural, pure product with no added sugar or preservatives.

New Zealand honey is a natural, pure product with no added sugar or preservatives. It is a natural, pure product with no added sugar or preservatives.

New Zealand's HONEY REGIONS

The different regions of New Zealand produce different types of honey. Each region has its own unique flavor and characteristics.

Each region has its own unique flavor and characteristics. The different regions of New Zealand produce different types of honey.



FOR INFORMATION ON ORDERING HONEY'S MAGIC TO...
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